

FIRE/EMS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Deputy City Manager Jeff Capps
Chief Financial Officer Jeff Kersten
Fire Chief Richard Mann
March 9, 2023



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

TOPICS TO DISCUSS

- Historical perspective on Station 6
- Changes that have impacted the 1997 Automatic Aid agreement
- Timeline of collaborative efforts to address concerns since 2020
- Financial Impacts
- Alternative considerations



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

- **City Council Strategic Plan
(2023 Council Retreat)**

- **Good Governance**

- The city will ensure all agreements with external entities are fair and beneficial to the citizens of College Station.

- **CSFD Strategic Plan (FY23)**

- **Fiscal Responsibility**

- Evaluate contracts and agreements – Promote financial partnerships with TAMU for emergency services. Negotiate the automatic aid agreement with the City of Bryan based on tiered-acuity to prioritize critical calls and maintain resource allocation.

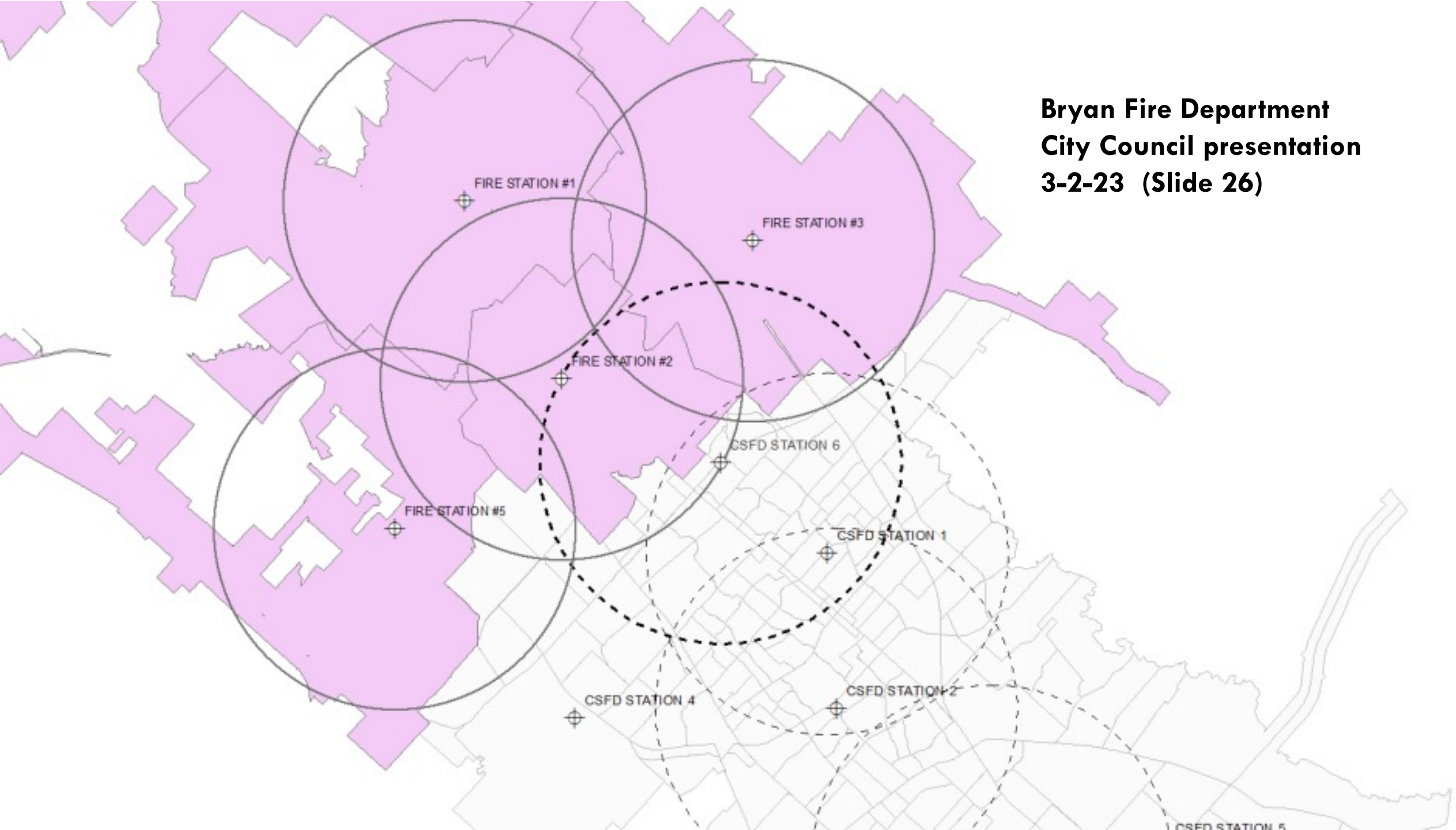
TOTAL COST OF COLLEGE STATION EMS SERVICE IN FY 23

- Cost of EMS Service
 - ~\$8.7 million
- EMS Service Revenue
 - ~\$2.7 million 31%
- COCS Taxpayers
 - ~\$6.0 million 69%



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

**Bryan Fire Department
City Council presentation
3-2-23 (Slide 26)**



KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR GROWTH



Risk

- What needs Fire/EMS services
- Population density
- Commercial, residential, wildland

Response Time

- What is the current response time with existing resources

Call Volume

- What is the current and projected service demand

Resources & Staffing Needs

- What type of resources (Engine / Ladder / Ambulance) is needed and what is the staffing requirements

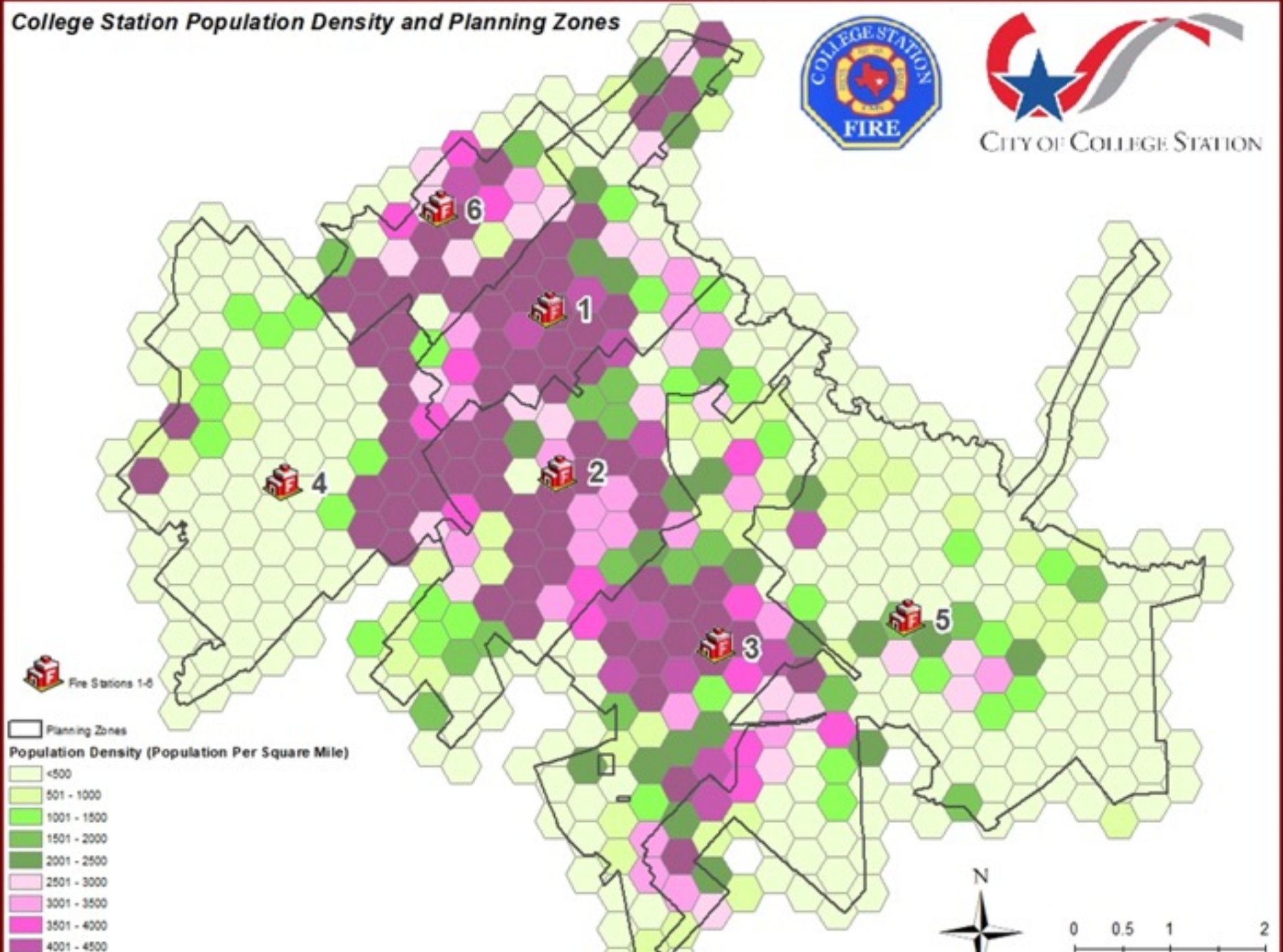
Location considerations

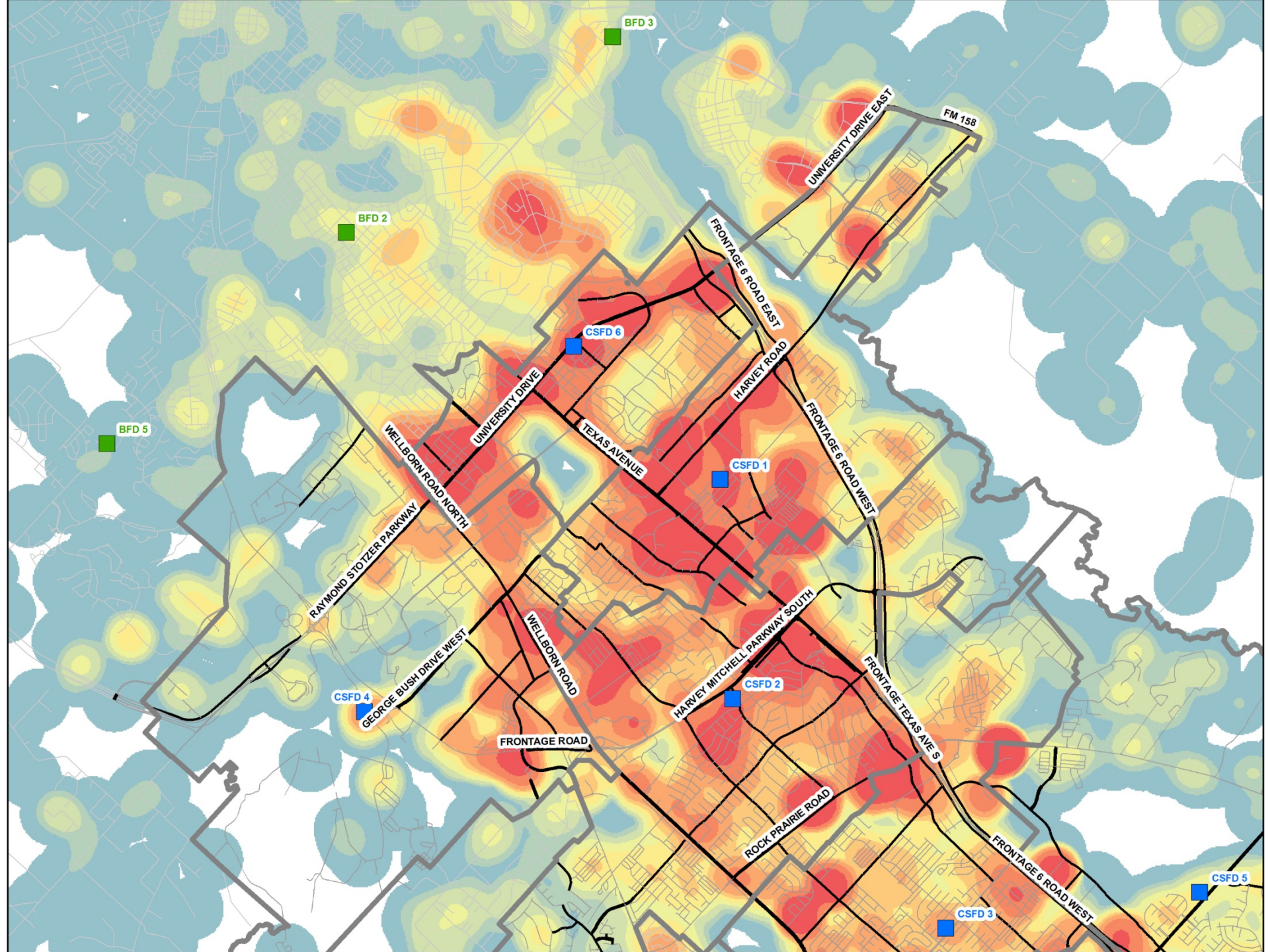
- What property is available to provide the most versatile response capabilities

Funding

- What is the budgetary impact for both one-time and reoccurring expenses

College Station Population Density and Planning Zones



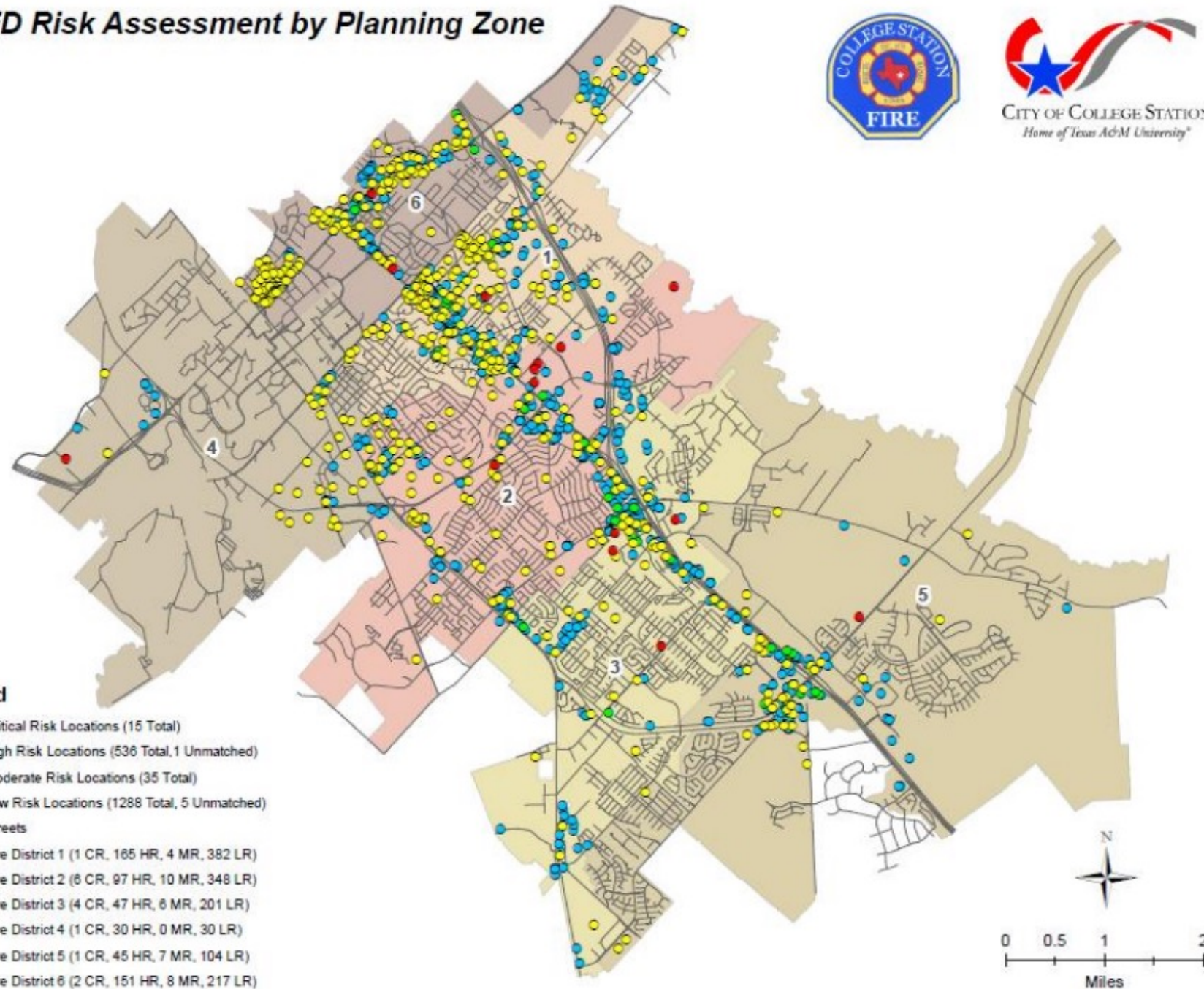


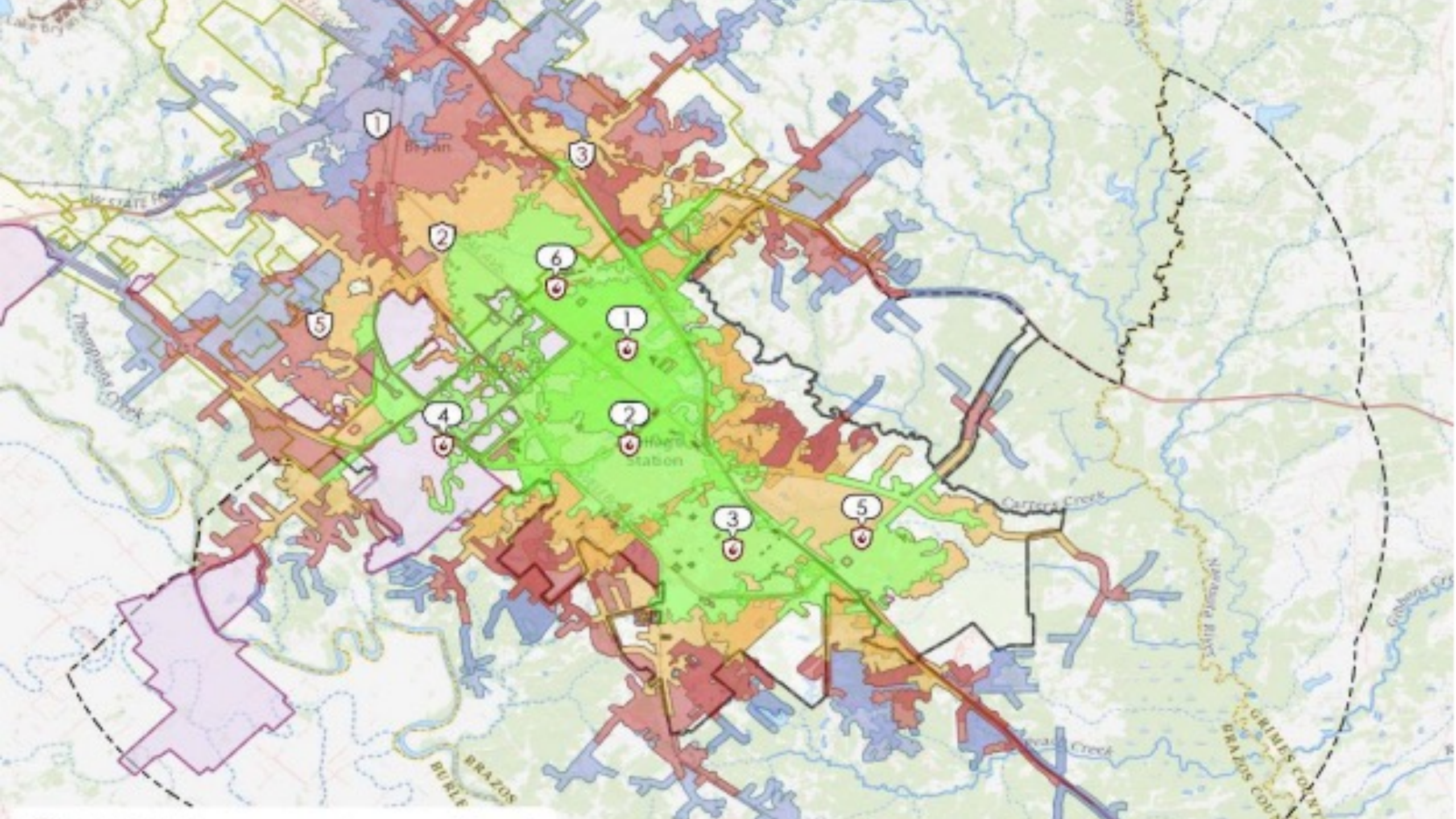
CSFD Risk Assessment by Planning Zone



Legend

- Critical Risk Locations (15 Total)
- High Risk Locations (536 Total, 1 Unmatched)
- Moderate Risk Locations (35 Total)
- Low Risk Locations (1288 Total, 5 Unmatched)
- Streets
- Fire District 1 (1 CR, 165 HR, 4 MR, 382 LR)
- Fire District 2 (6 CR, 97 HR, 10 MR, 348 LR)
- Fire District 3 (4 CR, 47 HR, 6 MR, 201 LR)
- Fire District 4 (1 CR, 30 HR, 0 MR, 30 LR)
- Fire District 5 (1 CR, 45 HR, 7 MR, 104 LR)
- Fire District 6 (2 CR, 151 HR, 8 MR, 217 LR)





SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IMPACTING AUTO AID



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

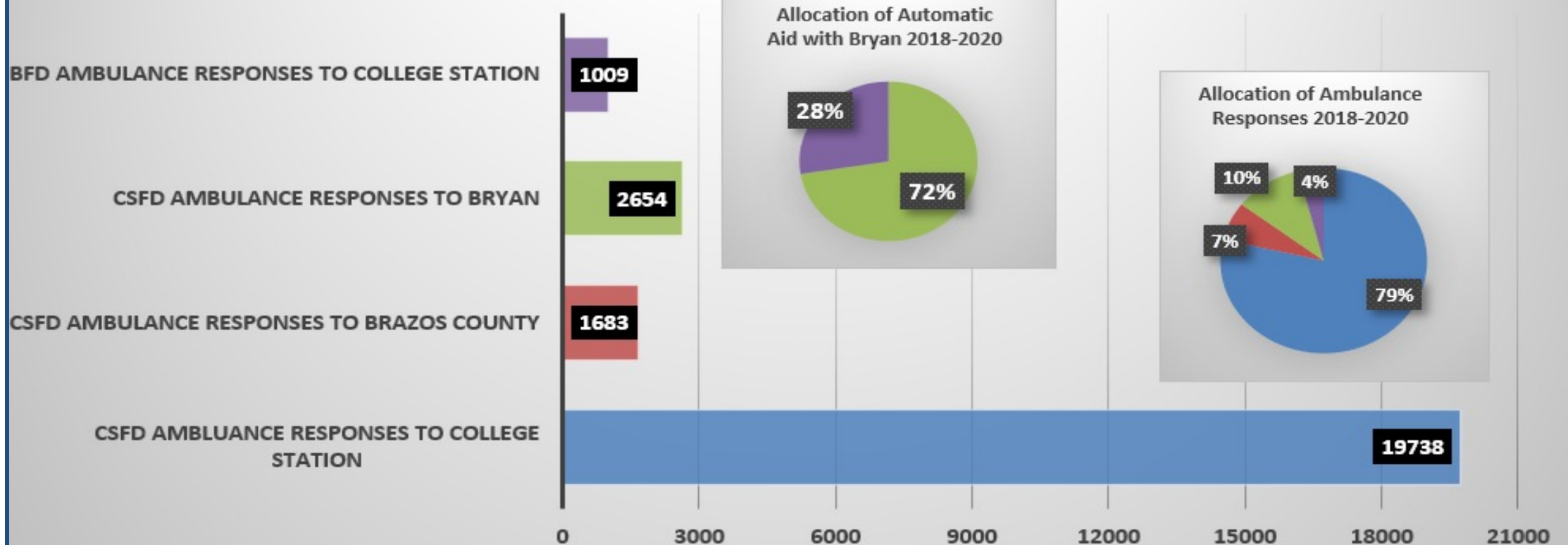
- CSFD Station 6
 - Opened 2012
 - Boundary response managed by dispatch according to response district
- BFD Station 2 relocation 2018
 - Moved north further north away from southern border of Bryan city limit
- Dispatch upgrades
 - New CAD 2016
 - ➡ ■ Automatic Vehicle Location dispatch 2018



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

THE NEED FOR A REVISED AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT

**Of 25,084 Ambulance Responses between 2018 and 2020
CSFD Provided 263% More Automatic Aid to Bryan**



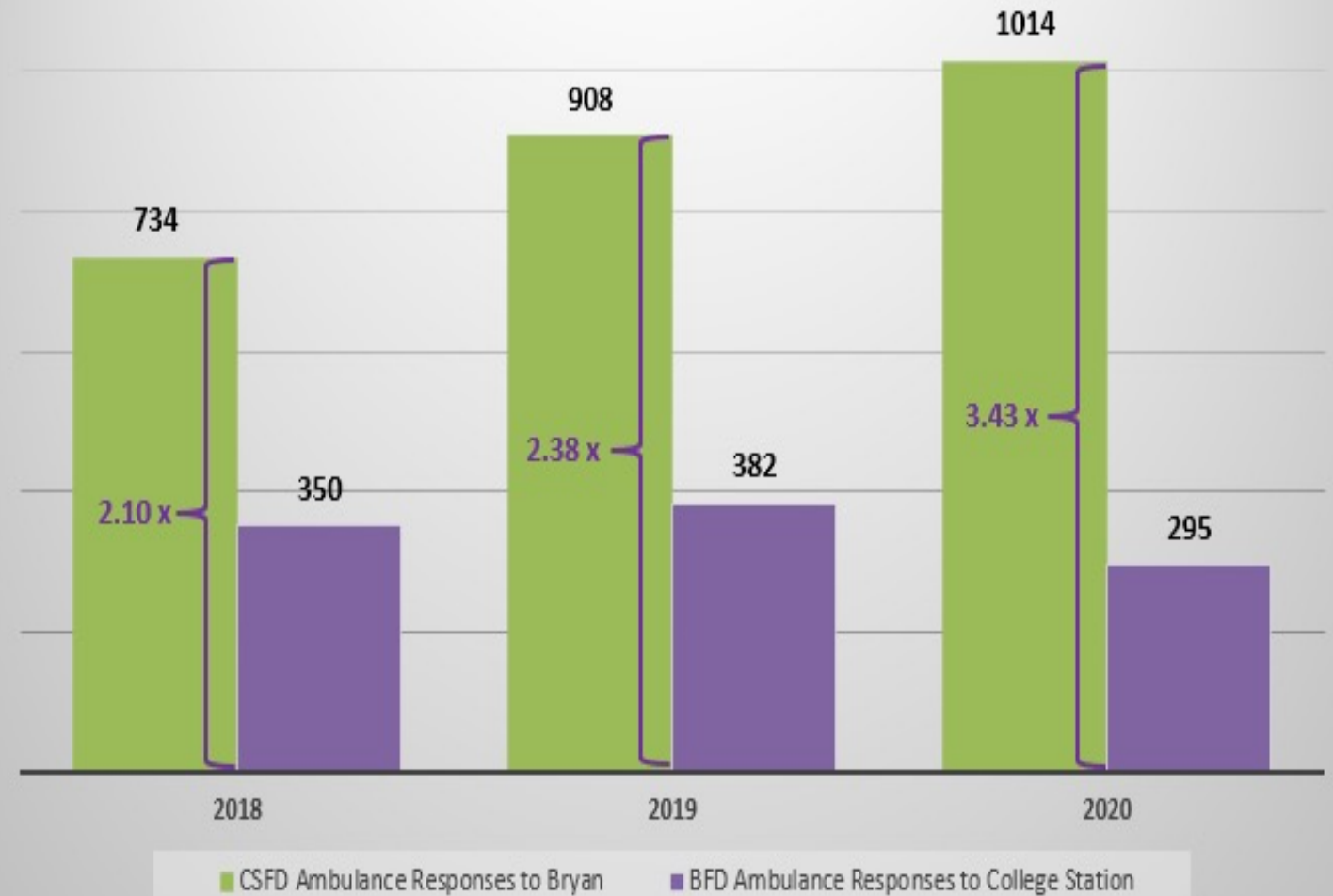
2018-2020

Increasing reliance on CSFD EMS for service delivery in the City of Bryan



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

Automatic Aid Ambulance Responses

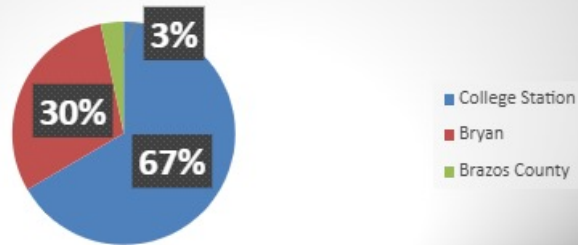




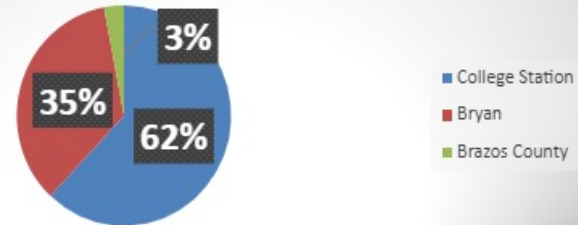
CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

ESCALATING IMPACT OF AVL DISPATCH (AUGUST 2018)

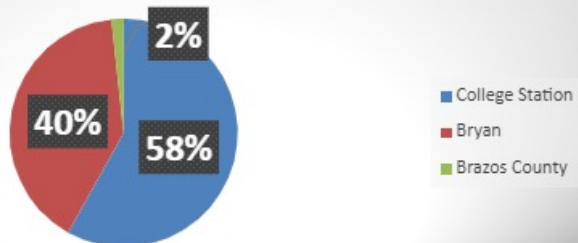
Allocation of Station 6 Ambulance Responses in 2018



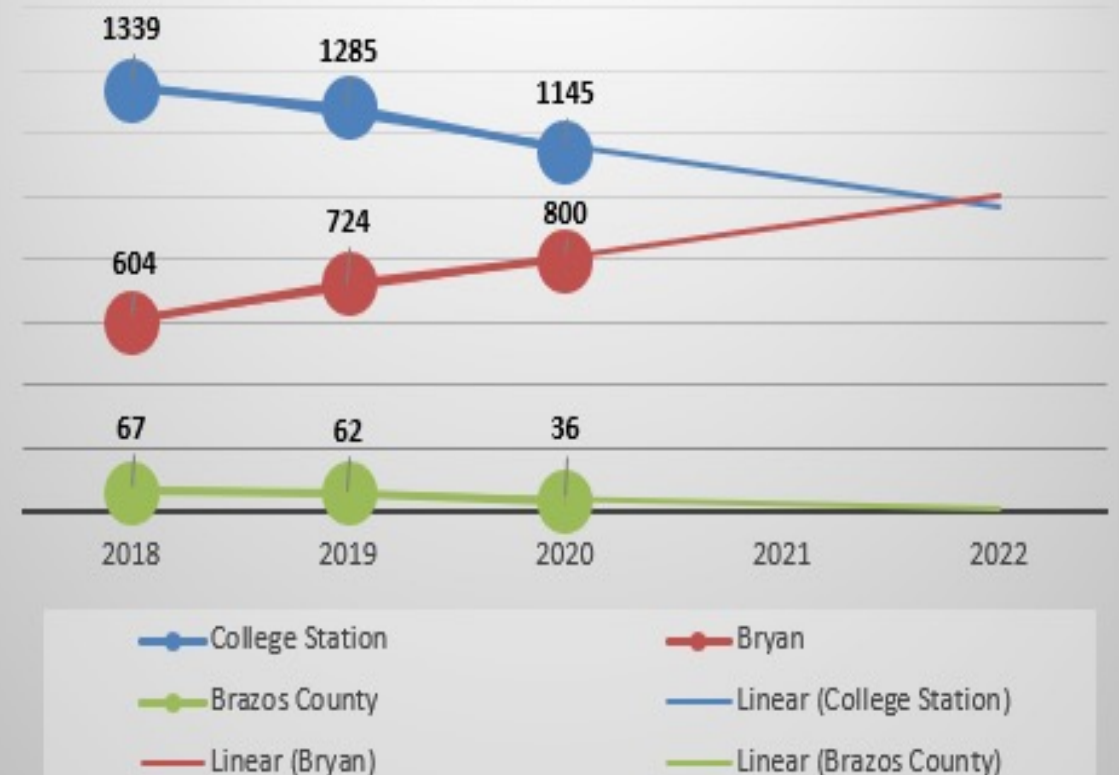
Allocation of Station 6 Ambulance Responses in 2019



Allocation of Station 6 Ambulance Responses in 2020



Station 6 Ambulance Responses in 2018-2020



STRUCTURE FIRE AUTOMATIC AID

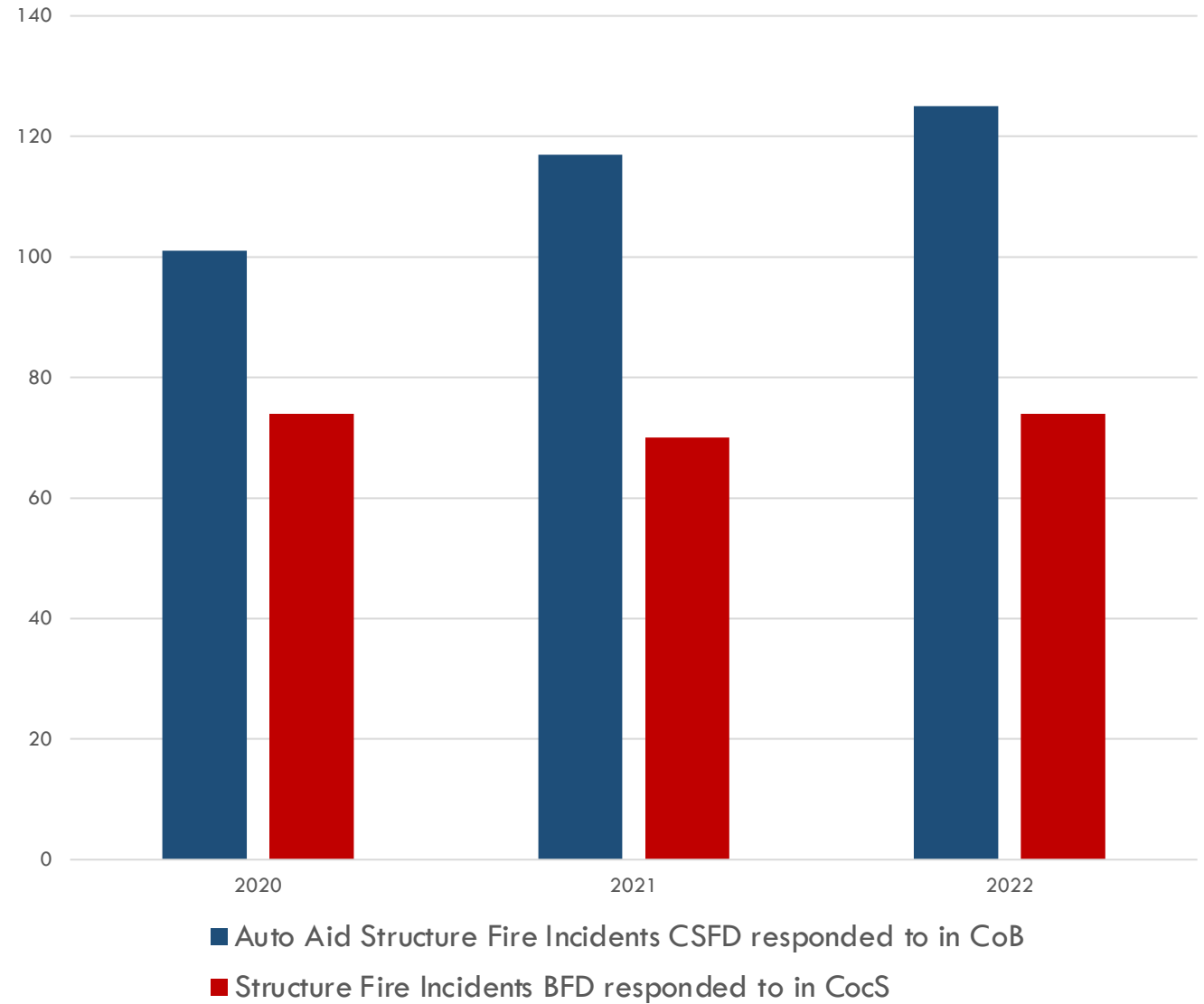
Much lower volume of overall responses:

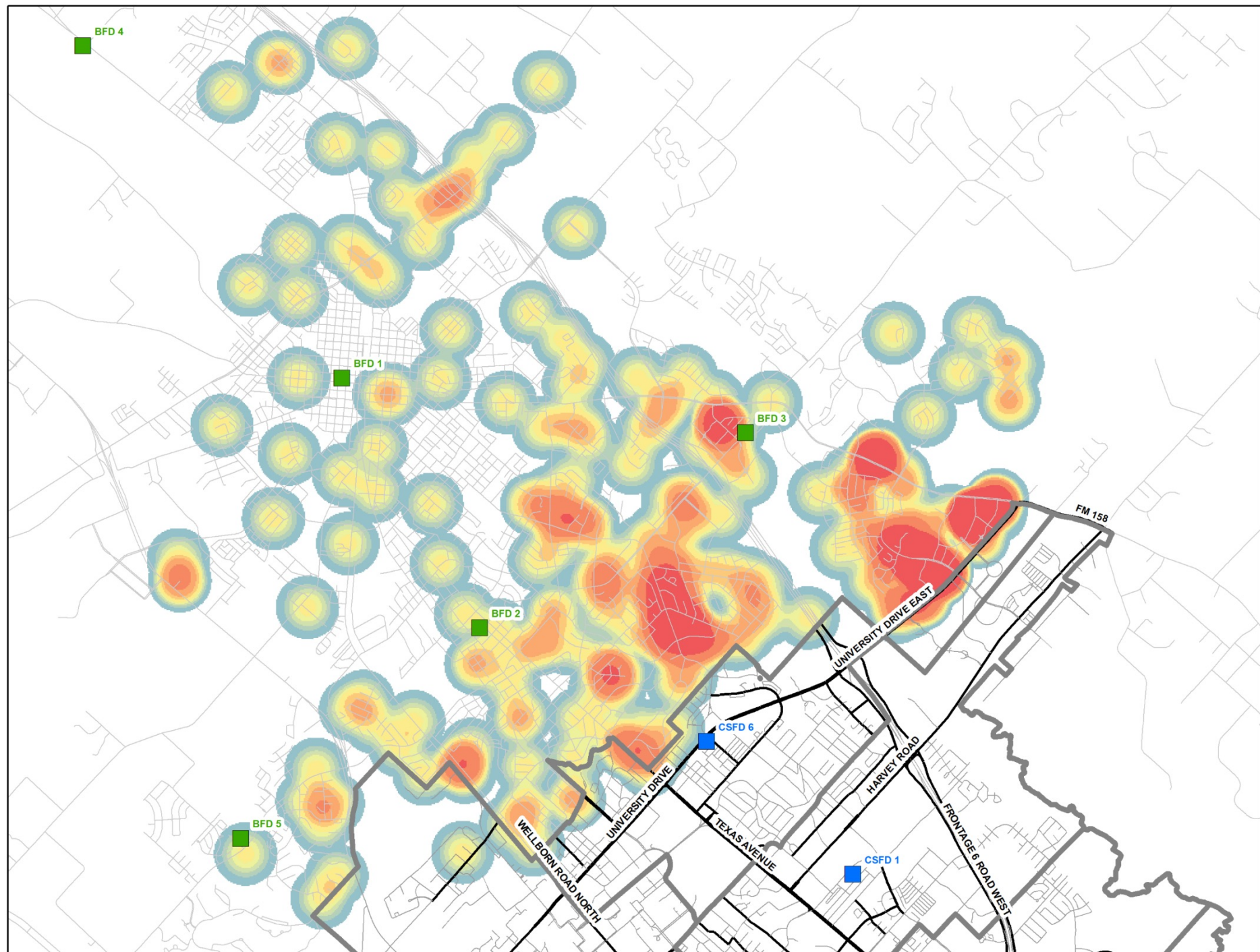
- 2022 – Structure Fire Auto Aid
 - 125 incidents aid provided to Bryan
 - 74 incidents aid provided to College Station



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

Structure Fire Automatic Aid Incidents by Year

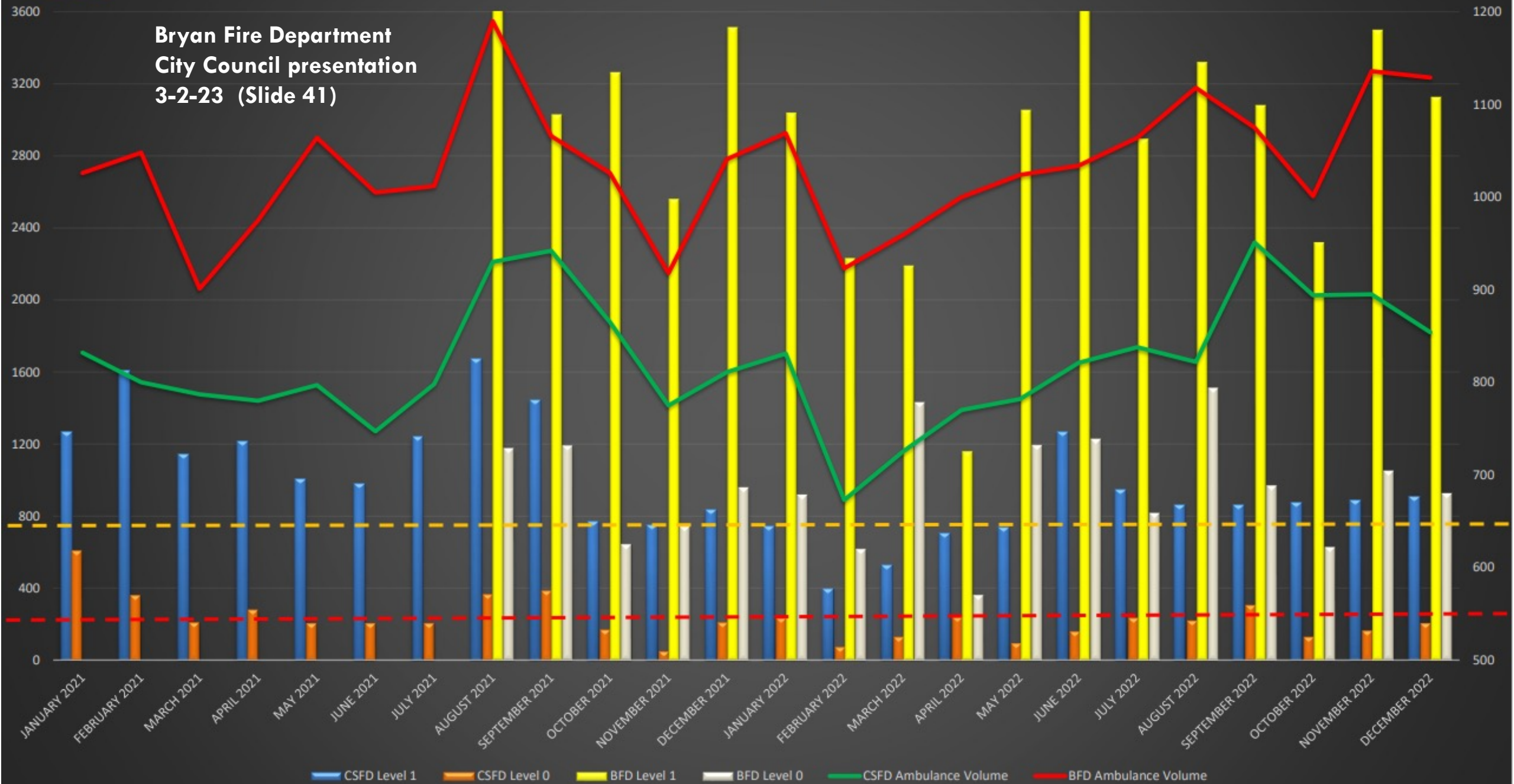




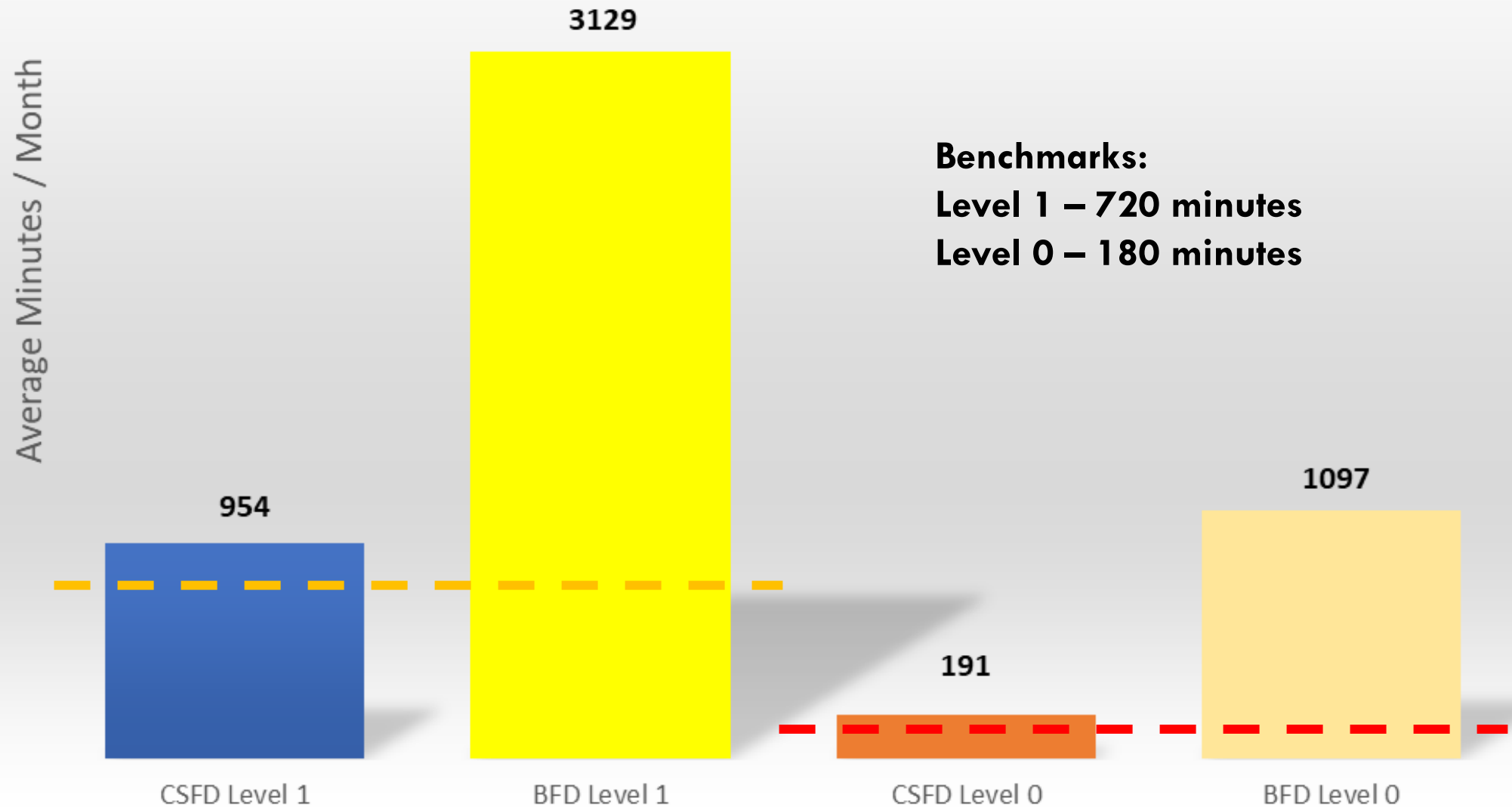
Level 1 = 720 Level 0 = 180

Ambulance Availability vs. Volume

**Bryan Fire Department
City Council presentation
3-2-23 (Slide 41)**

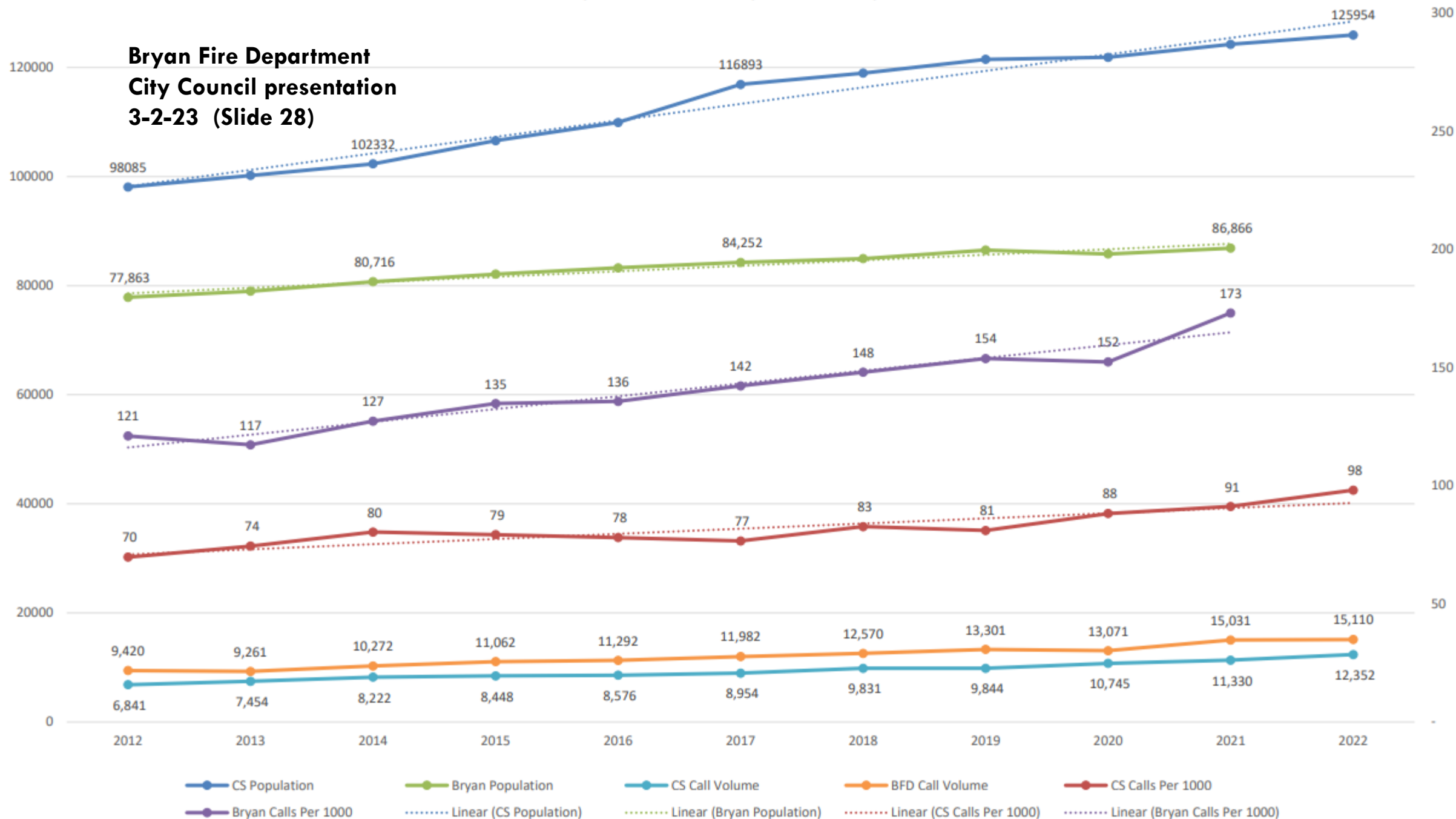


2022 Critical Ambulance Threshold June - December

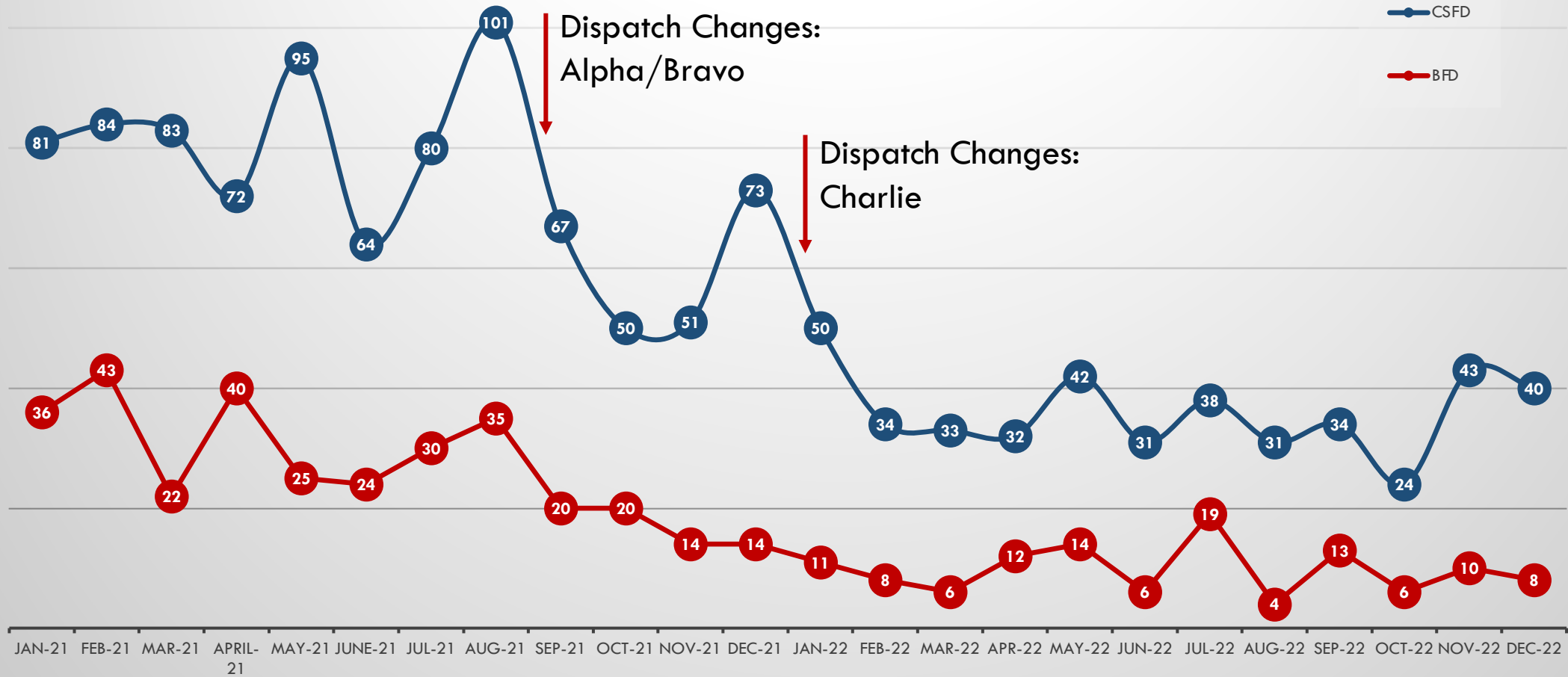


Population and Calls per 1000 People

**Bryan Fire Department
City Council presentation
3-2-23 (Slide 28)**



EMS Auto Aid





CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

TIMELINE OF DISCUSSIONS

2020

- February 2020 – Management review by Center for Public Safety Management. Recommendation 5 – CPSM recommends that College Station and Bryan look at opportunities to jointly staff and cost share Station 6 services.

2021

- May 19, 2021 – Chief Mann provided CMO data indicating a problem with the automatic aid agreement.
- June 1, 2021 – Initial mtg between Mann & Guisti to discuss imbalance in response
- June 2, 2021 – Capps discussion with Walker at COB and provided data and documentation outlining the disparity between calls served as well as operational concerns. Reminded Walker of a Management review that suggested Bryan EMS house an ambulance at Station 6 to run calls.

2021

- July 2, 2021 – 1st draft of new ILA sent to Walker at COB
 - Revised financial adjustment to \$550 for any difference annually between jurisdictions for EMS calls
- November 22, 2021 – 2nd draft of new agreement (Sent to Hugh Walker and Chief Guisti)
 - Removed language for rejecting low acuity EMS calls
 - Maintained \$550 /call true-up amount
- December 9, 2021 – Meeting at Bryan City Hall to discuss – Capps, Mann, Walker, Guisti, Gallagher, Smith

2022

- March 16, 2022 – Mtg w/ Capps, Mann, Walker, Guisti, ME Leonard, DeHaven, Smith to discuss managing financial true up (Finance Departments of both cities to work on true-up)
- April 21, 2022 – 3rd draft of new agreement sent to Walker
 - Adjusted language to include Charlie level calls
 - Each department would bill for the transport provided in each other's jurisdiction. Any uncollected and/or outstanding charges beyond 90 days will be paid by the jurisdiction in which the service was provided.
 - Quarterly true ups.
 - COB response was still wanted to monitor data as operational changes were being made and concerns with difference in EMS fees.
- July 13, 2022 – Re-sent from April with additional data to date. Also asked if they preferred a flat rate such as both cities agreement with the County.
 - Responded that they would review. He wanted to get with Kean who was out of the office for a few days.
- August 23, 2022 – Meeting with Kean Register, Bryan Woods, Hugh Walker and Jeff Capps
 - Kean advised that they have had further discussions with Chief Guisti and they were at a point where automatic aid was no longer necessary. They were good to move toward a mutual aid agreement on the EMS side.
- November 10, 2022 – Council approved City Manager send 60-day notice to terminate the 1997 Automatic Aid agreement with the City of Bryan.

2023

- January 9, 2023 – Auto Aid termination letter sent by City Manager
 - Proposal sent recommending Mutual Aid for EMS services and Automatic Aid continue for Fire services. No fees for either.
- February 28, 2023 – Walker sends the proposed automatic/mutual aid agreement you are reviewing today.
- March 2, 2023 – City of Bryan Council approves the agreement before you today.

TOTAL COST OF COLLEGE STATION EMS SERVICE IN FY 23

- Cost of EMS Service
 - ~\$8.7 million
- EMS Service Revenue
 - ~\$2.7 million 31%
- COCS Tax Payers
 - ~\$6.0 million 69%



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

COLLEGE STATION EMS ADDITIONS IN FY 2022 AND FY 2023

- FY 22 and FY 23 EMS Investments
\$2.584 million
 - 2.8 Cents on Tax Rate
- FY 22 Peak Ambulance Addition
 - \$856,000
 - Staffing added via overtime
- FY 23 New Ambulance (5th)
Addition and Reserve Ambulance
 - \$1.728 million
 - 7 positions



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

COST OF SERVICE FOR CITY OF BRYAN CALLS 2022

- Total Cost of CSFD EMS Service in Bryan
 - \$487,000
- EMS Service Revenue
 - \$178,000 37%
- College Station Taxpayers
 - \$309,000 63%



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

CITY OF BRYAN PROPOSAL 2-28-23

Based on the application
of this proposal, there
would be no
reimbursement to the
City of College Station



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

II. PROVIDING AID

2.1 The Parties agree to cooperate in providing aid with fire and EMS personnel for fire service, EMS, technical rescue response, hazardous materials response, securely sharing sensitive and non-sensitive information and records, and providing additional resources and equipment outside their jurisdictions, subject to availability and the Chief's discretion.

2.1.1. Requesting Aid. The Requesting Agency's Chief or designee should request aid, including the amount and type of equipment and/or resources as well as the number of personnel and the specific dispatch location.

2.1.2. Providing Aid. The Providing Agency's Chief or designee, in his or her sole discretion, has determined sufficient personnel, equipment, and resources are available for the specific assignment, and the health, safety, or welfare of the Responding Agency's citizens will not be endangered by dispatching personnel or equipment or resources outside of the Responding Agency's jurisdictional limits.

2.4 EMS Mutual and Automatic Aid reimbursement

- a.** Each jurisdiction will charge and collect, from the patient, appropriate fees as defined by the respective ordinances for EMS services through established billing and collection processes. An average minimum financial collection of \$240.00 per transport will set a minimum annual collection threshold for each jurisdiction to compensate the Responding Agency. If the average minimum threshold received by a Responding Agency is unmet through collections from patients 180 days after the end of the fiscal year, the jurisdiction receiving aid will reimburse the Responding Agency the difference to reach the minimum threshold standard.

An average minimum financial collection of \$240.00 per transport will set a minimum annual collection threshold for each jurisdiction to compensate the Responding Agency. If the average minimum threshold received by a Responding Agency is unmet through collections from patients 180 days after the end of the fiscal year, the jurisdiction receiving aid will reimburse the Responding Agency the difference to reach the minimum threshold standard.

2.5 Special Response Teams.

- a. College Station Hazmat Response.** College Station will invoice any Responsible Party for a Hazmat Response. If Bryan is the Responsible Party, College Station will invoice Bryan only for supplies and consumables. College Station will not invoice Bryan for personnel time related to a Hazmat Response.
- b. Bryan Technical Rescue Response.** Bryan will invoice any Responsible Party for a Technical Rescue Response. If College Station is the responsible party, Bryan will invoice College Station only for supplies and consumables. Bryan will not invoice College Station for personnel time related to a Technical Rescue Response.



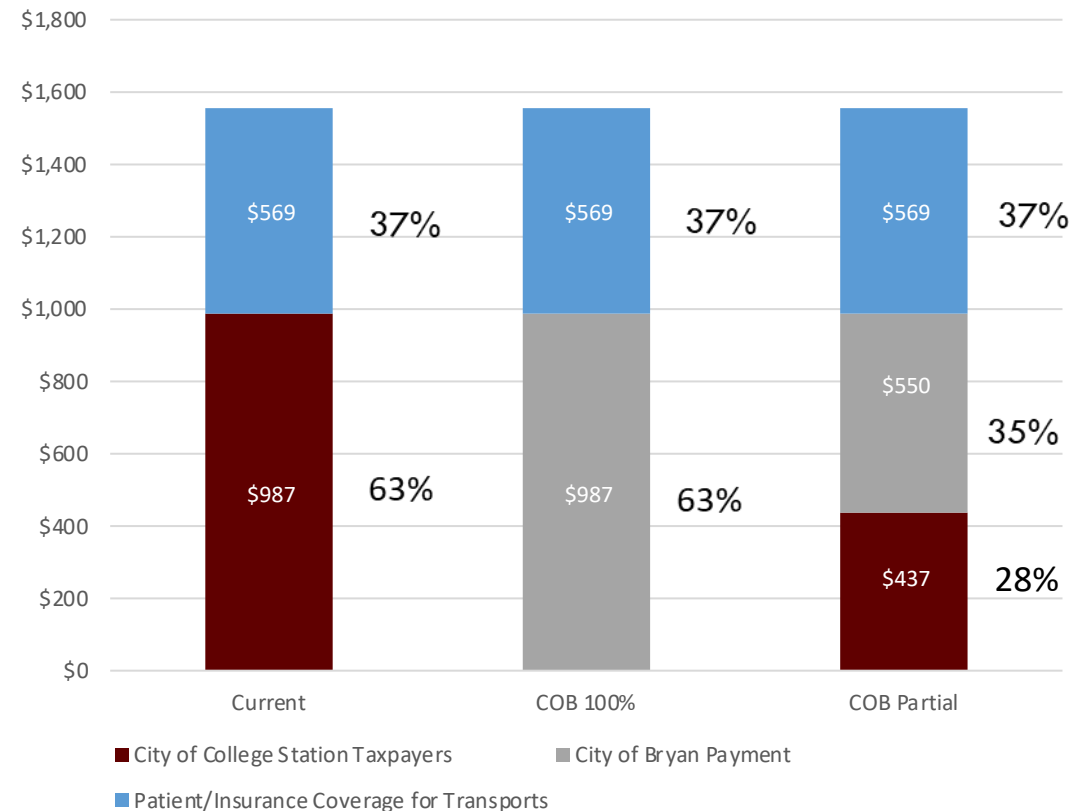
CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

COLLEGE STATION EMS CALLS IN BRYAN — COSTS PER CALL

Full Cost Per Call Rates for COB Calls 2022

	<u>Current</u>	<u>COB 100%</u>	<u>COB Partial</u>
Patient/Insurance Coverage for Transports	\$569	\$569	\$569
City of Bryan Payment	\$ -	\$987	\$550*
City of College Station Taxpayers	\$987	\$-	\$437
Full Cost for COB Transports	<u>\$1,556</u>	<u>\$1,556</u>	<u>\$1,556</u>

Full Cost Per Call Distribution for COB EMS Calls 2022



* July 2021 Proposal to City of Bryan



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Home of Texas A&M University®

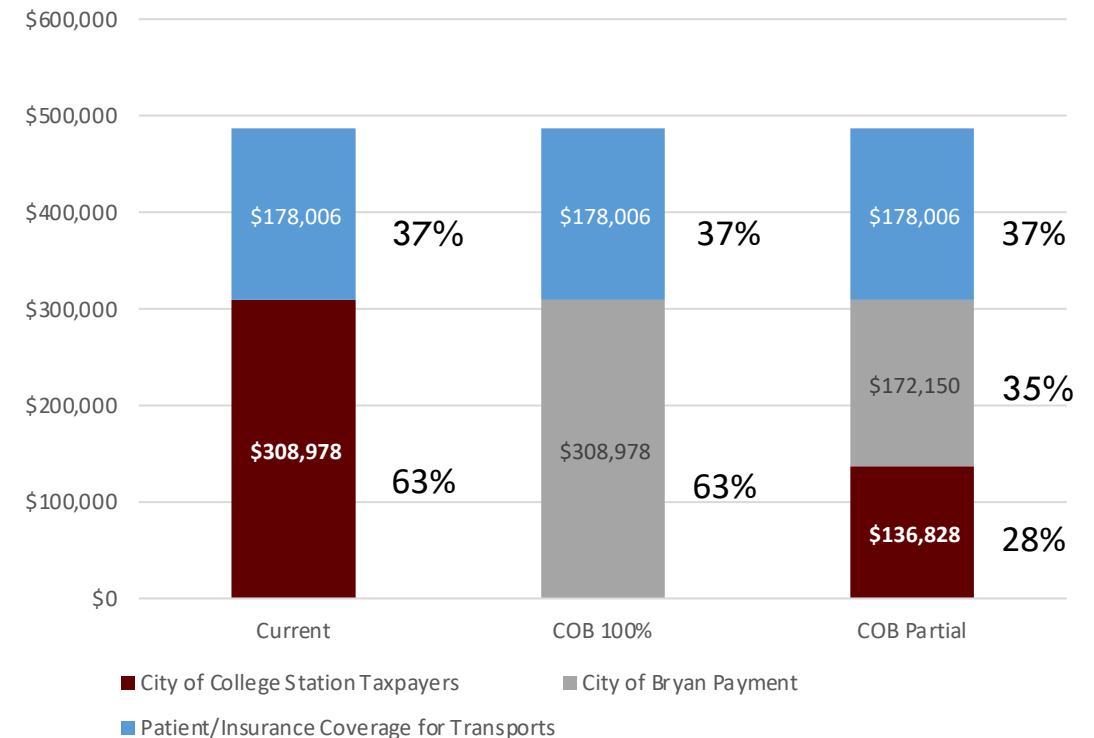
COLLEGE STATION EMS CALLS IN BRYAN - TOTAL COSTS

Cost Distribution for College Station EMS Responses in Bryan 2022

	<u>Current</u>	<u>COB Full Payment</u>	<u>COB Partial Payment</u>
Patient/Insurance Coverage for Transports	\$178,006	\$ 178,006	\$178,006
City of Bryan Payment	-	\$308,978	\$172,150*
City of College Station Taxpayers	\$308,978	-	\$136,828
Full Cost for COB Transports	<u>\$486,984</u>	<u>\$486,984</u>	<u>\$486,984</u>

*July 2021 Proposal to City of Bryan

Cost Distribution for College Station EMS Responses in Bryan 2022



COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS

- Accept proposal from City of Bryan (Status Quo Financially)
- Determine acceptable level of subsidy by College Station taxpayers
- Move to Mutual Aid for EMS and Fire Services
- Provide alternative proposal to City of Bryan

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Automatic aid for high acuity Fire/EMS call types with AVL dispatch as identified by CAD
- Mutual aid for low acuity call types based on resource availability
- Reasonable annual financial adjustment for any imbalance in EMS service delivery